

**Fremont Conservation Commission**  
**05-19-08 Minutes**



**Fremont Conservation Commission**  
**Minutes of May 19, 2008**  
Approved June 2, 2008

Present: Chairman Jack Karcz, Members Janice O'Brien, Tina Sturdivant, Pat deBeer, Bill Knee and Recording Secretary Meredith Bolduc.

Also present: Rich Maclean

Chrm. Karcz opened the meeting at 7:30 pm.

**MINUTES**

Mbr. Sturdivant made the motion to accept the minutes of the April 21, 2008 meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Mbr. O'Brien with unanimous favorable vote.

**GLEN OAKES FOREST & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

At 7:30 pm Forester Charlie Moreno met with the Commission to report on the status of the Glen Oaks Forest & Wildlife Management Plan. He presented a hand drawn map entitled "Natural and Physical Features Map of the Town of Fremont's Glen Oaks Conservation Area". This map, which he said was the result of many days spent canvassing the area, showed the natural and physical features of the 312 acre area and will serve as the basis of the forest and wildlife management plan. Mr. Moreno stated that he will create both a forest map and a habitat map. He reported that he found about 45 vernal pools, many of which he located on the map. The majority of the vernal pools are in the central area and north of the cul-de-sac as well. The legend on the map showed the existence and locations of a stone walls, barbed wire, woods roads, trails, footpaths, landings, culvert, old cellar holes, old cemetery, old well, seasonal streams, forested wetlands, shrub swamp, emergent/ponded wetland, snags, boulders and significant trees. There was a "significant tree index" on the map and Mr. Moreno said that many of the trees had wildlife attributes. In the southeast area is a nice area of upland hardwood. He added that he found a stone culvert, some pig iron, bog iron and a sort of man-made esker done quite a long time ago. There is a well that probably correlated with the westerly cellar hole. There is also an easterly cellar hole and he asked if the Members could come up with (family) names to correlate with the two cellar holes. Mr. Moreno added that there are a number of seasonal streams on the property, but no perennial stream. He found a lot of variation of vegetation and habitat and pointed out that moose and deer are prominent in the westerly area of the property. There has been a migratory bird survey and a breeding survey done and one of the birds that they found in the swamp area is the Northern Water Thrush. In answer to questions by the Members, Mr. Moreno said that he that he missed the early spring season and did not see much significant wildflower or open hardwood area, but if there are any they will be in the enriched mesic sites. He noted that the invasive plant problem is not an issue here. Mr. Moreno stated that there really are some interesting things going on in this forest.

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His overall feeling is that it would be fine to have a cooling off period, but he would want to perpetuate some habitats and enhance the growth of some mast trees and that the course of management could be set for a very long time. Mbr. O'Brien stated that there was a previous conversation about introducing American chestnut trees and Mr. Moreno said that it would be good to emphasize the native species, plant and animal. In answer to a question by Mbr. Sturdivant he said that he would like to see the significant trees remain in the areas where they are growing now as well as to try to duplicate that growing area and spread them out. Mbr. Knee stated that it would be good to maximize the biodiversity for the species that are there, which means managing for multiple habitats. There was a conversation of how to establish, manage and maintain the habitat strips. Mr. Moreno stated that recommendations for this will be in his report.

Mr. Moreno also questioned whether there is an endowment for the Town Forest. He indicated that the revenue from the Forest will be minimal for some time, but there are projects such as plantings, such as the chestnut trees, that will need to be done. There was a conversation relative to how much the plantings would cost and who would do the planting. This prompted a conversation relative to creating a fund, or a management fund, specifically for the Town Forest. It was noted that the ordinance says that any revenue generated from the forest goes into the Conservation fund for the Forest. Chrm. Karcz asked Mr. Moreno how much money it would take to establish a fund and Mr. Moreno answered that it depends on how soon the expenses would be incurred, but he felt that about \$10,000 would be a ballpark amount. Mr. Moreno stated that it should be clearly stated that the goal is the management of the land and it is not to cut the resource to make money.

Mr. Moreno stated that the "Land Management Objectives" survey worksheet completed by the Members helped him with the basis of his final report. Mr. Moreno said that in the survey recreation was highly recommended and he said that it is his opinion that there are plenty of existing trails so there is no need for more.

There was a conversation relative to digitizing the map Mr. Moreno had drawn and Mbr. deBeer thought it could certainly be done. Mbr. deBeer thought it would be nice to have the vernal pools on a separate layer.

There was a conversation about other studies in the Glen Oakes area such as a wildflower study.

Chrm. Karcz voiced concern relative to publicly locating the cemetery. This prompted a conversation relative to whether it should be denoted on the plan.

Mr. Moreno stated that he needs to work on the report, take a few more photographs, do a breeding bird survey and finish his recommendations. He agreed to meet again with the Commission at 7:30 pm on August 4, 2008 for the purpose of issuing another status report. Mr. Moreno left the meeting at 8:45 pm.

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#### **CARBON DYNAMICS STUDY**

##### **UNH**

At 8:45 pm Rich MacLean, a research associate at UNH, met with the Commission and related that he is working for Dr. Ducey and Dr. Frey of the Natural Resources Department on a study of carbon dynamics in the Lamprey River watershed. He showed a map entitled "Soil Survey of Conserved Land within the Lamprey and Oyster River Watersheds" which located the Tuck Conservation Easements in Fremont as well as three other Conservation Easements in Brentwood. Mr. MacLean stated that his study will involve comparing carbon storage in the soil and in the above ground flora among forest fragments of different sizes. He hopes to establish long term sampling on conserved lands because these lands won't be paved over during the sampling process. The sampling will be done to help detect changes in carbon storage over extended periods of time. In answer to questions by the Members, Mr. MacLean said that there will be no disturbance above ground. The initial area of digging will be from ½ to 1 meter x ½ to 1 meter. They will dig out and weigh the soil and then return the soil to the hole and cover it. They may want to install a small sign designating the area of the study. After that, they will go in periodically and take 10 to 100 cubic cm. samples, which will be returned to the sample site after on site testing.

It was greed that Mr. MacLean would need the permission of the Tuck Woods Association as the landowners and the Conservation Commission as the holder of the Easement. Mbr. deBeer suggested that as far as the Tuck Woods Association is concerned, Mr. MacLean start by writing to the Board of Directors to find out if they could give permission or have him attend an association meeting.

Mbr. O'Brien reviewed the Tuck Woods Easement, specifically the restriction of use limitation #3 as shown on page 3 of the Easement. She said that she does not see an issue with Mr. MacLean's proposal. The other Members collectively agreed that the Conservation Commission, as the holder of the Easement, would have no problem with the carbon dynamics study as proposed. There was a conversation relative to adding a note to the Easement relative to permission for the study. Mr. MacLean stated that he would share the results of his carbon dynamics study with the Commission.

Mr. MacLean said that they are looking at a total of 50 sites and will choose 25 for sampling within the year. He stated that he will send something in writing if the Tuck site is chosen. He left the meeting at 9:05 pm.

#### **HJALMER ANDERSON**

##### **Map 6 Lot 060**

Chrm. Karcz said that he has not received a copy of the Easement draft for the Anderson property at 84 Old Ridge Road, Map 6 Lot 060. Mbr. O'Brien said the she thinks it is not ready yet. She added that the Rockingham County Conservation District (RCCD) wants to see the proposed survey before it goes to mylar and she will let Surveyor Tom Brouillette know so that he can get it to them. Chrm. Karcz reported that Mr. Brouillette has submitted a May 15, 2008 contract agreement that he has signed, with a cost estimate of \$1,500 for surveying and preparing a plan for the Hjalmer and Christine Anderson

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property at Map 6 Lot 060. The services to be provided were listed as A) Deed research at Town Hall and Registry of Deeds; B) Cut line, flag lines, set up traverse; C) Traverse and side shot locations; D) Computer calculations; E) Drafting of final plan for recording; F) Setting of lot corners, iron rods with identification washer or plastic cap. Also drill holes in walls and found stone bounds. This agreement states that the plan will depict the boundary and 2.5 acre +/- easement exclusion area (area to be determined), the easement exclusion shall also be monumented with iron rods and flagged orange, and work should be completed by the end of May.

Mbr. Knee made the motion to authorize Chairman Karcz to sign the contract and to also authorize the Conservation Commission to fund up to \$1500 for boundary survey and plan preparation relative to the Conservation Easement with the Hjalmer and Christine Anderson property at 84 Old Ridge Road, Map 6 Lot 060. This funding is to be paid from the Current Use account.

Motion was seconded by Mbr. O'Brien with unanimous favorable vote.

#### **PRIME WETLAND**

Chrm. Karcz reported that, as agreed at the last meeting, the Commission asked Mr. Dollard for two quotes; one to digitize the Prime Wetland aerial information and put it on the Tax Map and one for just putting it on the Tax Map if the digitizing was done by someone else. And Mr. West was asked for a quote for digitizing the information only.

Chrm. Karcz related that in answer to those requests the Commission has received the following:

1. A quote and preliminary contract from Mark West for the amount of \$760 to include digitizing boundaries of 26 prime wetlands, preparing a CD-ROM of the digitized prime wetland boundaries, delivering the data to the Fremont Conservation Commission and his mileage and expenses.
2. An estimate via e-mail from Mr. Dollard of "\$100 or less" to put the information of the 26 prime wetlands on the Tax Map.

Mrs. Bolduc reported that during a May 6, 2008 phone conversation Mr. Dollard stated that he has conversed with Mark West of West Environmental and he feels that because Mark did the prime wetland study and has the data and ability to digitize that data, he felt that it would better serve the Town if Mark digitized the information and Dollard Associates would put the information on the Tax Map.

Mbr. O'Brien made the motion that the Conservation Commission authorize funding of up to \$760 for payment to West Environmental for the scope of services to include digitizing boundaries of the 26 prime wetlands that were approved at the March 2008 Town Meeting, preparing a CD-ROM of the digitized prime wetland boundaries, delivering the data to the Fremont Conservation Commission and his mileage and expenses. This funding is to be paid from the Current Use account.

Motion was seconded by Mbr. DeBeer with unanimous favorable vote.

Mbr. Sturdivant made the motion that the Conservation Commission authorize funding of up to \$100 for payment to Dollard Associates upon completion of adding to the Tax Map the digitized data for the

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26 prime wetlands that were approved at the March 2008 Town Meeting. This funding is to be paid from the Current Use account.

Motion was seconded by Mbr. Knee with unanimous favorable vote.

#### **TURTLE WALK**

Mbr. O'Brien stated that Laura Deming of the Audubon Society will lead the "turtle walk" at the Oak Ridge Conservation Area that is scheduled for 8:00 am on Saturday June 21, 2008. The walk will be up the rail trail where there are turtles on both sides. Those attending will meet at the Fremont Public Library parking lot. Mbr. O'Brien said the walk is advertised on Channel 22, on the Town web site and she will contact the Ellis school to further advertise the event.

#### **ERLAC**

##### Vernal Pool Workshop

Mbr. Sturdivant reported that she attended the Vernal Pool workshop on May 10, 2008 at the Raymond Middle School. She thought that overall it went well, but the turnout was larger last year.

Mbr. deBeer said that she attended the last ERLAC meeting. She reported that Bear Creek Continental from Vermont has been chosen as the consulting company to complete phase II of the Fluvial Geomorphology Study watershed protection plan. The contract will be finalized in June. A kickoff meeting will be held on July 22, 2008 and members from the Conservation Commissions, Planning Boards and Selectmen from the Exeter River Watershed towns will be invited.

#### Signs

Mbr. Sturdivant said that she and Road Agent Guerwood Holmes will set up the protected river sign at the rail trail.

#### **TREASURERS REPORT**

The Commission received from Town Treasurer Kimberly Dunbar the Conservation Commission account balances with the New Hampshire Deposit Investment Pool (NHPDIP) as of April 30, 2008 and the checking account balance that remains with the Citizen's Bank.

#### **INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE**

A comment sheet and public hearing notice from the ZBA relative to the Superior Court ordered remand for further reconsideration in case #07-003, Fremont Children's, LLC, Copp Drive, Map 2 Lot 181. Mbr. Sturdivant abstained from any comment as she is an abutter to the subject property. It was agreed that the Conservation Commission has no comment.

Mbr. Sturdivant made the motion to adjourn at 9:55 pm.

Motion seconded by Mbr. O'Brien with unanimous favorable vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Bolduc